

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing messages in a network, said method comprising the steps of

identifying a first one message of a first plurality of messages, said first plurality of messages having at least one first routing treatment in common;

recording said first routing treatment, wherein said step of recording comprises building an entry in a flow cache;

identifying a second one message of said first plurality of messages;

routing said second one message responsive to said first routing treatment.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein

said first one message comprises a packet;

said first plurality of messages comprises a stream of packets associated with a selected source device and a selected destination device.

3. (Original) A method as in claim 2, wherein said stream of packets is associated with a first selected port number at said source device and a second selected port number at said destination device.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said first plurality of messages comprises a message flow.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said first plurality of messages comprises an ordered sequence, and said first one message has a selected position in said ordered sequence.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said first plurality of messages comprises a stream of messages between a selected pair of transport access points.

7 (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, comprising the step of identifying a message of a second plurality of messages, said second plurality of messages having at least one second routing treatment in common, said second routing treatment differing from said first routing treatment.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said routing treatment comprises access control information for said first one message.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said routing treatment comprises a destination output port for routing said first one message.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, comprising the steps of recording information about said first plurality of messages; and transmitting said information to at least one selected device on said network.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein said information comprises a transmission time for an initial one message in said plurality of messages; a transmission time for a most recent one message in said plurality of messages; a cumulative count of bytes in said plurality of messages; or a cumulative count of said one messages in said plurality of messages.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 11, comprising the steps of receiving said information at said selected device on said network; recording said information in a database at said selected device; and making said information available to a second device on said network.

14. (Original) A system for routing packets in a network, said system comprising means for receiving a stream of packets, said stream of packets comprising a plurality of message flows, each said packet being associated with one selected message flow, each said message flow having at least one routing treatment in common;

means for associating packets with a first one of said message flows;

a flow cache having an entry associated with said first one message flow;

means for routing packets responsive to entries in said flow cache.

15. (Original) A system as in claim 14, wherein said entry comprises access control information.

16. (Original) A system as in claim 15, wherein said entry comprises a destination output port for routing packets.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 14, comprising means for transmitting information responsive at least one said entry to at least one selected device on said network.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said information comprises

a transmission time for an initial one message in said plurality of messages;

a transmission time for a most recent one message in said plurality of messages;

a cumulative count of bytes in said plurality of messages; or

a cumulative count of said one messages in said plurality of messages.